

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

# ARCHWAYS

TAKE MEASURE | FALL 19 | VOLUME 19, ISSUE 3



## MASSIVE CHANGE

Ed Williams ('64) has forever moved the way the world measures mass.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



President Good knows what it's like to be new in town. He pitched in on move-in day to welcome new students and parents to campus.

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*I'm stepping into my new role at a time when the university is experiencing its greatest momentum.*

## Dear Alumni and Friends,

In our first 90 days here, my wife Diana and I have absolutely fallen in love with Nebraska Wesleyan, Lincoln and Nebraska. We've taken our first walk through the arch, welcomed new students, and begun meeting with alumni and friends of the university, as well as Board of Governors members and student and faculty leaders.

My background is in biology, but I'm spending my first months working hard to be an anthropologist—observing and asking questions so I can more deeply understand the culture of Nebraska Wesleyan.

My ears and eyes outnumber my mouth four to one. So it makes sense to me to let my listening and watching quadruple my talking.

Naturally, people want to know what my plan is for Nebraska Wesleyan. I must readily admit I don't have one yet. I'm not coming in with any dramatic scheme to change this amazing university. I've seen disastrous effects of new presidents who arrive with preconceived ideas of what's broken and how they're going to fix it.

Nebraska Wesleyan University needs no quick fixes. In fact, I'm stepping into my new role at a time when the university is experiencing its greatest momentum.

- › **In August, we welcomed another record class.** Our 487 first-year students equaled last year's record total, with growth in transfer students (68, up from 59 in 2018) breaking the tie.
- › **More students are staying.** Our student retention (first year to second year) is 84%—a rate that puts NWU among the top of Nebraska's colleges and universities.
- › **Bold Designs was the most successful campaign in NWU's history.** We surpassed our ambitious \$62 million goal by raising \$67.5 million. That success demonstrates that you believe deeply in our future.
- › **Our students' experiences set them up well for success.** Ninety-nine percent of surveyed 2018 graduates reported they held jobs or graduate school placements.
- › **Our alumni outcomes are likewise outstanding.** Your success is a testament to the education you received in NWU's classrooms, throughout the campus and beyond.

We will continue to be guided by our existing strategic plan, Archways Plan 2021. I will keep listening and watching. Together, we'll also begin creating the next strategic plan to advance our shared goals.

I look forward to hearing your stories, watching your accomplishments and partnering with you on behalf of this special university.

*Darrin Good*

—Darrin Good, president



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This assemblage by Polly Becker uses historical objects—including a 1963 yearbook photo of Ed Williams (’64)—to capture the history-making significance of Williams’ metrological work.

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*Nebraska Wesleyan University is an academic community dedicated to intellectual and personal growth within the context of a liberal arts education and in an environment of Christian concern.*

*Archways is an examination—and, ideally, a conversation—of how Nebraska Wesleyan University and its people relate to the world around us. That examination is academically sound, socially conscious, and continuously curious.*

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## Knowing Him Was a Gift

Bill Draper Finlaw was my “boss,” my minister, my GSL advisor, my teacher and my friend. After learning of his death in the summer issue of *Archways*, I found this picture of Bill. His smile and outstretched hands, along with the caption, “Is this a great country, or what?” perfectly embodied his philosophy on life. The photo was taken on a GSL trip to El Salvador in 2004.

I had the privilege of serving as a student worker in the University Ministries Office from fall 2001 to spring 2004. In fact, I was scheduled to begin my duties on September 11, 2001. I met Bill in the doorway of Professor Emeritus of English Roger Cognard's ('67) office in Old Main. We shook hands and agreed to postpone my start date.

At that moment, I learned so much about Bill. Knowing him was a gift.

I recall him visiting with colleagues (usually Ebb Munden or Bill Wehrbein ('70)) or writing his “Letters to Luke.” No

matter what else was going on in the world, Bill was never too busy to greet and acknowledge me. He taught me so much about how to treat people. He also taught me how to enjoy life.

A few of my favorite Bill memories: singing “Wade in the Water” during a torrential downpour in El Salvador, announcing the arrival of Ted Kennedy during a tour in Washington, D.C., and, above all, Bill's calm voice greeting me with his signature, “Hey!” (If you ever witnessed it, I imagine you can hear it in your head now.)

**Erika Rasmussen Gaswick ('05)**

Rushville, Neb.



Bill Draper Finlaw

## You Can Have a Good Life Here

I write in celebration of Professor of Sociology **Bill Cascini**, who died May 17, 2019.

Bill's path led from the Italian enclave of Schenectady, N.Y.; through Kentucky for college; to South Dakota where he met his wife, Edythe; to Denver for his PhD from Iliff; then to New York City to teach; and finally to NWU where he taught for 38 years. Along the way, he also ministered to numerous United Methodist congregations and provided marriage counseling.

As baseballer Ernie Banks said, "The measure of a man is in the lives he's touched." Bill's work touched thousands of lives at NWU.

Bill's passions were his family, his students, his discipline and social justice. Bill never wavered in his commitment to his family's welfare, his proud heritage as the son of Italian immigrants, and his love of family tradition.

Student welfare came first in Bill's educational calculus. He understood that intellectual development does not flourish in emotional turmoil. Mentors taught him to give students a welcoming ear and a helping hand. He challenged students to grow their minds even while he helped them tend their hearts. He tempered rigor and accountability with charitable understanding. For 35 years as department chair, he did the same for his colleagues.

A former high school football star, Bill remained a lifetime sports fan. But his true love was sociology. He strove to understand the social context of people's lives, the crucible within which their agency flourishes or fails. I believe this passion grew from the insight sociology gave him in his own life. Bill didn't speak English until he started public school; he redefined himself from Mario to Bill in response to a teacher's struggle to pronounce his name.

Initially limited by the boundaries of his ethnic enclave, social class, language and first-generation status, Bill benefitted from mentors who guided him toward higher education and meaningful vocation. For Bill, sociology was essential to self-understanding, self-determination and social action. He understood both the challenges and privileges life had offered him. This understanding allowed him to see people within a web of social connections.

Informed by sociology, Bill committed his life to social activism. In addition to work on numerous campus committees and community outreach, Bill founded the Sociology/Anthropology/Social Work Department, the social work major and the criminal justice track. As a teacher; supporter of the underground student newspaper, *The Prufrock*; and a prelaw, academic and fraternity advisor; Bill encouraged students to apply sociological insight to social problems.

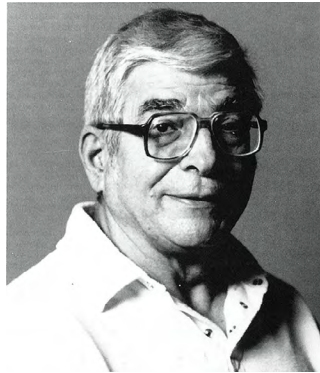
I came to NWU in the last five years of Bill's academic career, yet Bill's impact on me was profound. Bill's final words during my job interview were, "You can have a good life here, David." This genuine expression was my determining factor in accepting Nebraska Wesleyan's job offer 29 years ago. Bill's simple wisdom was an expression of his core passion to see into each person, and to gently help them live well.

I remember Bill with great love and respect. He continues to animate my teaching and my life.

### David Iaquinta

Lincoln

*David is professor of sociology and demography at NWU.*



Bill Cascini

## A CORRECTION TO OUR CORRECTION

Thank you for "resurrecting" me in the latest *Archways* magazine. However, just for your information, I'm a professor emeritus of chemistry, not physics.

Nice try, though.

Stayin' alive—and true to my science.

### Norm Griswold

---

Opinions expressed in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of *Archways* magazine or Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Anonymous letters will not be printed. Letters may be edited for length, content and style.



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## A Human Rights Giant

On June 16, 2019, Frank LaMere (LL.D. '19), lost a brief battle with cancer. I lost my mentor. The Nebraska Wesleyan community lost a friend. And America lost a human rights giant.

Frank had more courage and devotion to the causes he fought for than anyone I've met. He worked both inside and outside the system, using a skill set rarely seen. He served as vice chair of the Nebraska Democratic Party and was arrested walking across an imaginary line on the Nebraska/South Dakota border advocating for his



Frank LaMere

Native brothers and sisters against the exploitive and lethal peddling of alcohol into the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. He stood up for his people against questionable police practices and fought fiercely for better treatment of Native children in the foster care system.

When you talked one-on-one with Frank, he made you feel like you were the only person that mattered. He listened intently, responded honestly, with humor and that wry smile of his.

Frank made numerous visits to NWU to speak at screenings of the documentary films, "The Battle for Whiteclay" and "Sober Indian Dangerous Indian." On each visit, he carved out time to speak in as many NWU classrooms as he could. For many summers, I have taken NWU students to the Winnebago and Omaha reservations for my course, which provides students a cultural immersion experience. Frank was always a featured speaker. I would schedule him for an hour. He would spend two hours and then stay for lunch and talk with my students some more. I would just sit back and watch the magic happen.

Frank's funeral was a microcosm of what the world should be. It reflected the ideals Frank stood for. The one thing Frank did, above all else, was to bring people together. There were people from all walks of life. There were people in political positions of power and people who work hard every day, leading what we might call ordinary lives. All races and socioeconomic groups were represented. There were laborers, educators and businesspeople. We mourned, laughed and cried together with Frank as the constant that bound us together.

Frank was famous for saying, "Change does not happen unless someone is made to feel uncomfortable." I will miss you, my friend. I will never forget you. Let's all get a little more uncomfortable and make the world a better place.

### Jeff Mohr

Lincoln

*Jeff is professor of social work at NWU.*

## Invite your family to join the family.

The children, grandchildren and siblings of NWU alumni receive an automatic, renewable **\$1,000**

**Alumni Legacy Scholarship.**

Encourage your family members to apply to NWU today.

## Rachel Pokora Wants You to See the World

Nebraska Wesleyan's 14th president, the late **John White**, wanted students to feel at home wherever their learning took them. He invested in NWU's grounds so campus might bloom like a home garden. To make NWU students feel just as at home on the world stage, he tended to a campus culture where study abroad grew to be normal, accessible and encouraged.

Today, the White Award for Internationalization honors faculty and staff who keep global study blooming at NWU. This year's White Award recipient is Professor of Communication **Rachel Pokora**.

"Drawing on her sabbatical experiences in Ireland and Italy to internationalize her teaching here on campus, Rachel inspires her students to consider global ideas and to study abroad," said one nominator.

Pokora served as faculty advisor for the first Network Globally, Act Locally (NGAL) entrepreneurship program. NGAL unites students and faculty from NWU, the College of Charleston (S.C.), The Citadel (S.C.), Tallinn University of Technology (Estonia) and the University of Tartu (Estonia) with support from the Harry and Reba Hoge Foundation.

In May, Pokora led a group of NWU students to Italy for her "Exploring the Culture of Tuscany" course, which grew out of her sabbatical experience there.

One student nominator said, "Pokora's patience, organization, class structure and expertise gave me the opportunity to overcome my ... anxiety (and) immerse myself in a foreign culture for the first time in my life."



Photo by Lauren Andes (21)

### THE FINAL

Roughly one-third of students have an international experience while at NWU. Nationally, that figure is just 1.8%.

## CIC Invests in NWU Administrator

NWU is what people often label either a "private" or "independent" institution. Either label carries a go-it-alone connotation that isn't entirely accurate. Even the strongest "lone wolf" draws strength from the pack. That's certainly true of **Kathy Wolfe** ('90).

NWU's dean of undergraduate programs was one of 41 administrators selected for the Council of Independent Colleges' (CIC) Senior Leadership Academy. In the academic year to come, Wolfe will hone her strengths in leadership through CIC seminars in Baltimore, Md., and Washington, D.C. She'll work with mentors and experts, and she'll engage in readings, webinars and case studies.

It's CIC's way of harnessing community to foster truly independent leaders for independent higher education.

### THE FINAL

The Council of Independent Colleges supports the good work of schools like NWU.

## Kelly Clancy's Wins Keep Coming

Last summer, we reported on Assistant Professor of Political Science **Kelly Clancy** as she took home Nebraska Wesleyan's highest teaching honor: the Margaret J. Prouty Faculty Teaching Award ("Prouty Award Goes to Tireless Scholar of Civil Unrest").

Turns out, Clancy was just getting warmed up.

She was also one of just 10 professors in the U.S. to be named Nancy Weiss Malkiel Scholars. The \$17,500 award is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support junior faculty seeking tenure whose research focuses on American history, politics, culture and society. Recipients must also show commitment to inclusive campus communities for underrepresented scholars.

"This award seeks to free the time of junior faculty on their way to tenure so they can build support for systems that make their fields and campuses more inclusive," said Provost **Graciela Caneiro-Livingston**.

Clancy's research is titled, "Charting the Resistance: Activist Civil Society and Social Change."

### THE FINAL

NWU political science professor takes national award for research on activism and commitment to inclusivity.



Kevin Boatright ('74)



Samantha (Spencer) Mosser ('98)



Shawn Peed ('04)



Sheryl (Rupp) Rinkol ('99)



Frank Svoboda ('84)



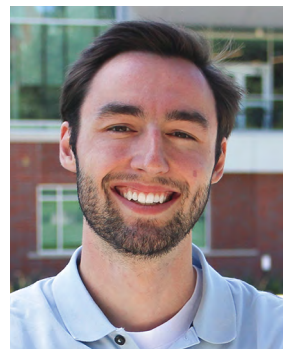
Patty Hawk



Tamra (Trehearn) Llewellyn ('06)



Hunter Smith ('21)



Samuel Trofholz ('20)



J. Robert Duncan (LL.D. '02)

## Board Welcomes New Members

Nebraska Wesleyan University's Board of Governors elected five alumni to its ranks.

**Kevin Boatright** ('74) of Lawrence Kan., is director emeritus of the University of Kansas Office of Research.

**Samantha (Spencer) Mosser** ('98) of Omaha is regional president-Omaha at Union Bank & Trust.

**Shawn Peed** ('04) of Lincoln is chief operating officer at Sandhills Global.

**Sheryl (Rupp) Rinkol** ('99) of Half Moon Bay, Calif., is an author and historian specializing in the RMS Titanic, and founder of Titanically Speaking.

**Frank Svoboda** ('84) of Grapevine, Texas, is executive vice president and CFO for Global Life, Inc.

These five alumni join the Board of Governors alongside President **Darrin Good** and four faculty and student members.

**Patty Hawk** is associate professor of communication studies and president of the faculty.

**Tamra (Trehearn) Llewellyn** ('06) is associate professor of health and human performance and vice president for faculty affairs.

**Hunter Smith** ('21) of Broken Bow, Neb., is a student member.

**Samuel Trofholz** ('20) of Columbus, Neb., is student body president.

The Board of Governors elected **J. Robert Duncan** (LL.D. '02) as governor emeritus for service with distinction. He served on the Board from 1987 to 1999 and was chair from 1992 to 1996.

This year's officers of the Board of Governors include Hon. **John M. Gerrard** ('76, L.H.D. '13), chair; **Cori Vokoun**, vice chair; **Kim (Roehrs) Moore** ('90), secretary; and **Kevin Cook** ('86), treasurer.

The Board of Governors also recognized nine outgoing members: **Elizabeth Gajardo-Stitt** ('20), **E. Susan Gourley**, **Susie Keisler-Munro** ('85), **Beverly Maurer**, **Larry Mohr** (Sc.D. '07), **Diane Nelson**, **Rachel Pokora**, **Katelyn Richerson** ('19) and **L. G. Searcey**.



# NWU Recruiters Hold Back

Before he retired in June, President Emeritus Fred Ohles gave an unusual order to Director of Admissions Gordie Coffin ('07).

"I've been here 12 years," Coffin said, "and I've never heard anybody say that."

What was the rare directive?

"He told us to shut it down." Stop recruiting traditional undergraduates for Nebraska Wesleyan's class of 2023. Because we're full.

How full? Burt Hall North is a recently renovated first-year residence hall that has served for several years as a pressure-release valve of sorts. Often, the facility stands unoccupied. Even after 2018's record-setting class, there was no need to house students in Burt North. This semester, however, 21 first-year students call Burt their home.

Demand is rising for Nebraska Wesleyan's distinctive approach to learning. It's an approach rooted in life-changing experience, service and personal attention. And people are traveling farther to find that fit at NWU.

This year, one in four new students came to NWU from outside Nebraska, up from 14% last year.

Demand was so high that Ohles and his colleagues faced an unusual choice. Keep recruiting and risk straining the university's capacity to house and support its newest students. Or stand down and protect Nebraska Wesleyan's core values of personal attention, stewardship and community.

They chose the university's values.

**487** new first-year students,

**24%** from outside Nebraska



**16** states



**25** average ACT



**3.7** average GPA



## THE FINAL

While similar schools have struggled nationally, NWU is growing.



## Dive in.

NWU swimming makes its home debut November 2 against Morningside and Simpson.



Follow the Prairie Wolves at  
[NWUsports.com](http://NWUsports.com).

Nebraska's only MSN/MBA

# NW you

Let a business degree  
open new doors  
for your nursing  
career.

Lindsay Weddle ('13)

Take classes in Lincoln or Omaha.  
Learn more at [nebrwesleyan.edu/msn-mba](http://nebrwesleyan.edu/msn-mba).





# 2018–2019 *ANNUAL REPORT* **OF GIVING**

Fiscal year: June 1, 2018, to May 31, 2019

*Photo by Jacob Brogan ('17)*

## Dear friends,

Like many of you, I was raised on the Great Plains. I've spent my career in the Dakotas, Minnesota and Nebraska. I'm neither a farmer nor a rancher, but on my better days, I like to think I've absorbed a little of how they look at the world.

I know we reap what we sow. I know the foolishness of expecting a good harvest from fields or flocks we haven't bothered to tend. And when I look at the big picture, I can see we're temporary stewards of something far bigger than ourselves.

Whether you're visiting a Sandhills ranch or walking on our green campus, I'm happy to report you'll see the same values of caregiving and stewardship. Those values feed an environment of Christian concern here that's remarkably fruitful for our students.

I saw it at commencement last May, when Jenna Schroeder ('19) printed these words on the back of her mortarboard:

"People don't grow where they're planted. They grow where they're loved."

Jenna attended Nebraska Wesleyan thanks to a donor-supported Access NWU Scholarship. She told me, "The most important thing I'll take away from my four years at NWU wasn't just how much I learned or the athletic ability I gained playing soccer, but rather how well I was loved."

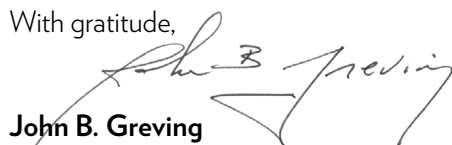
Here is where love and support combined with teaching and mentorship to help Jenna thrive. She's matching her accounting skills with her passion to serve others through a position with Citylight Lincoln Church. "I feel strongly called to make a difference through serving and loving my community," she said.

Her fellow student, Jacob Barrett ('20), put it this way at this year's Black and Gold banquet. "I have learned at NWU that you cannot truly experience a community unless you serve it."

Thanks to students like Jenna and Jacob, I think I've become even more like a Nebraska farmer. Our students' energy and wisdom give me something of a farmer's unflinching optimism for the future. I hope they inspire you, too.

Please accept my gratitude to everyone who steps forward to help tend the special campus where such students grow.

With gratitude,



**John B. Greiving**

Vice president for advancement



## THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE NUMBERS

More than numbers, raising support for Nebraska Wesleyan University is about people—about relationships. Meet the team of professionals out there who raised funds—and friends—on behalf of NWU in 2018-19.

### **John Greiving**

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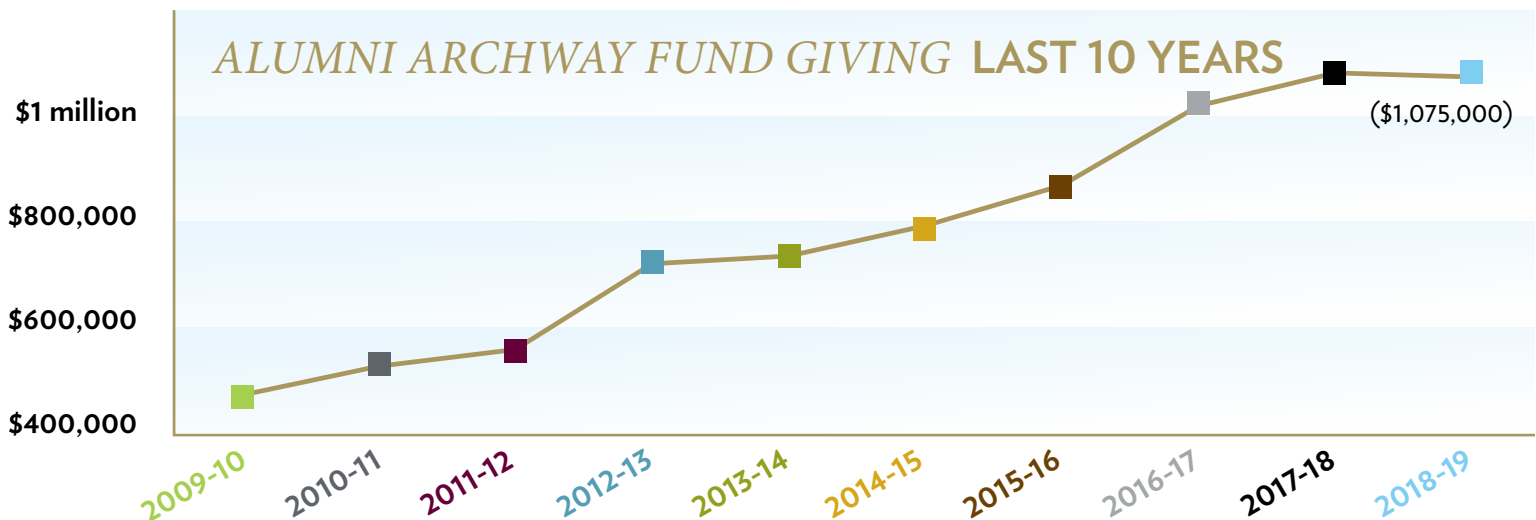
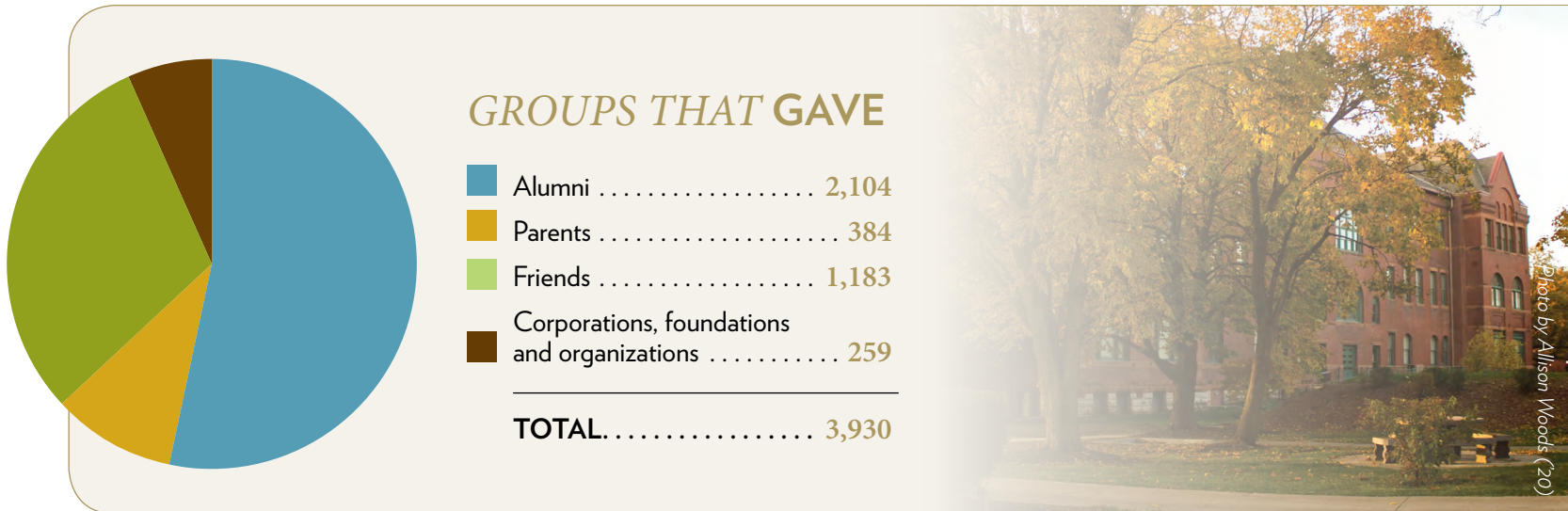
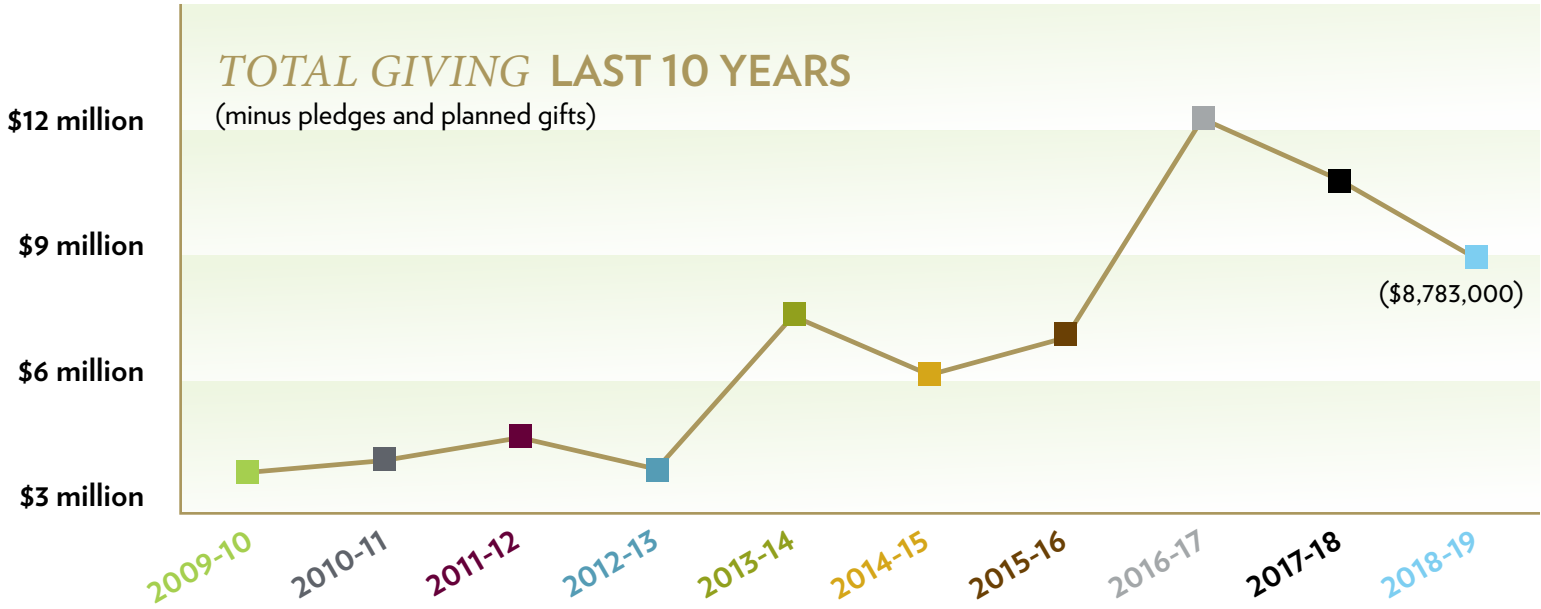
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[nebrwesleyan.edu/donate](http://nebrwesleyan.edu/donate)



## Dear friends,

I've read this magazine over the years and often wondered how it is that one small university can be a part of so many great stories. Success stories. Love stories. Coming-of-age stories. Stories about finding your calling, or picking yourself back up after a loss. Stories where you find strengths you never knew you had.

Maybe these stories shouldn't surprise us. After all, think of all the characters in these stories that you know—your teachers and classmates—who've called Nebraska Wesleyan home. Think of our ambitions, our boldness. Think of the work we put in and the journeys we've taken from here. Is it any wonder we have great stories to tell?

The campaign we called Bold Designs is one more Nebraska Wesleyan success story. It's a true story of more than 14,000 of us coming together in support. Our gifts raised \$67.5 million for Nebraska Wesleyan University—\$5.5 million more than our goal.

These gifts are building premier learning spaces, growing scholarships, expanding faculty support, enhancing student experiences and helping to

meet other essential priorities such as endowment support.

I'd call that a happy ending—except it's not the ending at all.

Thanks to you, this Nebraska Wesleyan story just keeps unfolding in new directions. I'm grateful to you for being part of this exciting story. When you give to NWU, you become both story character and author. You're driving the story now. And I can't wait to read the next chapter.

Thanks to you, this Nebraska Wesleyan story just keeps unfolding in new directions.

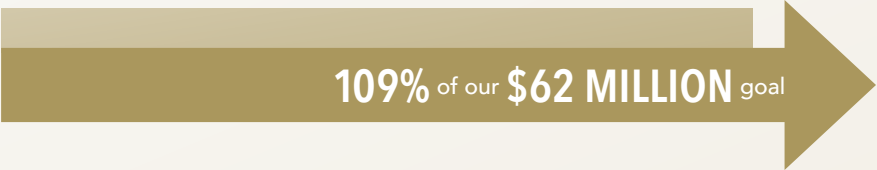


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Ruth". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Larry Ruth ('67, LL.D. '15)**  
Bold Designs campaign chair

**\$67.5** MILLION  
*RAISED*



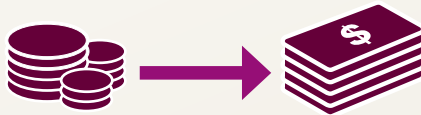
**14,148**  
donors

**1,375**  
first-time NWU  
alumni donors

**395**  
faculty and  
staff donors

**1,012**  
student donors

**1,057**  
donors gave each  
year 2012-2019



Gifts to Bold Designs of  
**\$100** or less totaled

**\$1,714,176**



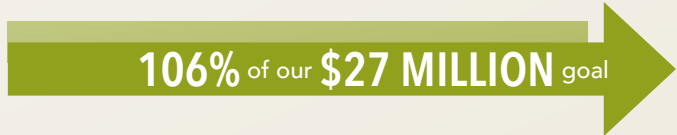
14 gifts of **\$1million** or more

**92**   
new scholarships



**\$28,642,829**

raised for Acklie Hall of Science



**4 sports** added fully endowed coaching funds

**\$9,195,612**

raised for the endowment

June 1, 2012, to May 31, 2019





# The *BLACK* and GOLD

## NWU gives thanks for investments made.

For Darrin and Diana Good, the Black and Gold banquet at the Country Club of Lincoln on September 5 was an opportunity not to be missed. Nebraska Wesleyan University's new president and first lady were able to meet many generous donors and thank them in person for investments made and kindnesses shown before the Goods' official arrival in July.

They were introduced by Kim Moore ('90), who chaired the presidential search committee. Speakers also included Chief Judge John Gerrard ('76, L.H.D. '13), University Minister Eduardo Bousón, Bold Designs campaign chair Larry Ruth ('67) and senior Jacob Barrett ('20) of Colorado Springs, Colo.

"The opportunities that students at Nebraska Wesleyan have, as a result of your giving, are endless," Barrett said. He then outlined his own wonderfully varied Nebraska Wesleyan experience, which included extensive research in both biology and world religions, as well as service trips to Arizona, Colorado, Puerto Rico, Guatemala and Nepal. "Only at a liberal arts school, right?"

Inducted into lifetime giving societies were Jim ('70) and Cheryl (Reiher) ('70) Keyser and David Peace. New Heritage Society members included Cynthia Hadsell ('70), Steven Joekel ('75), the Keyzers, Peace, Joyce Richey ('58) and William and Sharon (Hunt) ('60) White.

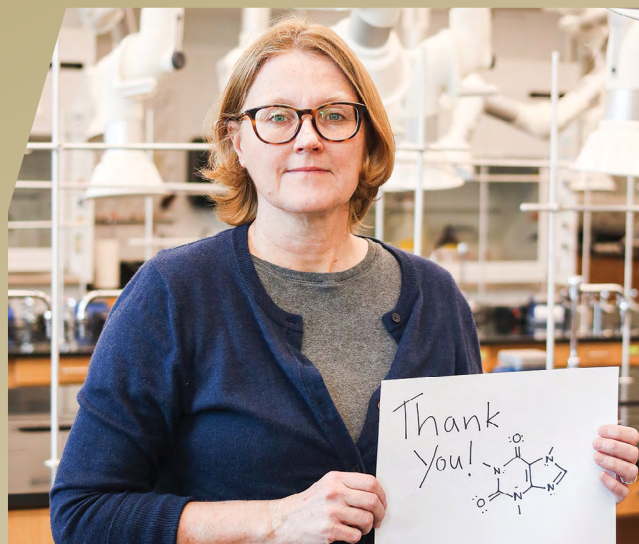


1. Thomas Christie ('74) visits with friends.
2. President Good talks with Jim and Georgianne Mastera.
3. Brad Hurrell ('73) entertains Shirley (Keller) Wilcox ('69) and Kevin Boatright ('74).
4. Diane Nelson looks on as Bill and Sherry (Hunt) ('60) White are welcomed to the Heritage Society.
5. Jacob Barrett ('20) shares inspiring words with the group.
6. Good welcomes Steve Joekel ('75) to the Heritage Society.
7. John Greiving presents Larry Ruth ('67) with a box crafted with trees harvested from the Acklie Hall of Science site.
8. Jim ('70) and Cheryl Keyser ('70) are welcomed into the Huntington and Heritage Societies.
9. Prof. Emerita Joyce Michaelis visits with Darrin and Diana Good.
10. It was nice to see Philip Mullin ('65) at Black and Gold.
11. Greg Bergt ('71) catches up with friends.
12. Theatre students Stephanie Earhart, Emma Kate Brown and Shaelyn (Taylor) Jeremiah perform music from "Footloose."
13. Eloise Kloefkorn greets Edythe Cascini and Janelle Cascini Herres ('83).

To everyone who supported us this year,  
Nebraska Wesleyan University says

# THANK YOU

**Jodi (Nielsen) Ryter ('90)**  
chair, professor of chemistry



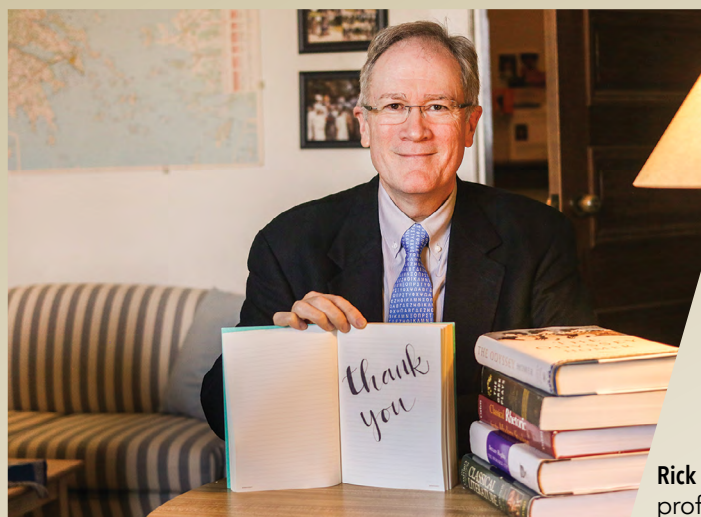
**Hudson Son ('22)**  
physics major



**Nancy Newman**  
nurse



**Rachel (Schwan) Smith ('16, MSN/  
MBA '19)**  
nursing graduate  
student



**Rick Cypert**  
professor of English



**Trinity Cox ('22)**  
social work major



**Dale Wellman**  
men's basketball coach

Photos by Lauren Andes ('21)  
and Allison Woods ('20)



## *We did it!* (Well ... you did it.)

Your generosity pushed NWU past our Bold Designs campaign goal. And you set a new Archway Fund record with \$1.63 million raised last year.

Your annual support keeps Nebraska Wesleyan University going strong.

Let's continue to accomplish great things together. Please make your Archway Fund gift today at [nebrwesleyan.edu/donate](https://nebrwesleyan.edu/donate).

Contact Erika Paschold at 402.465.7574 or [epaschol@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:epaschol@nebrwesleyan.edu)



# MASSIVE CHANGE

Ed Williams ('64) "Gang of Five" redefines how the world measures mass.

—By Eric Wendt ('99), illustrations by Polly Becker

*When we can measure  
an artifact more  
precisely than we can  
expect that object to  
be stable, then it's no  
longer a constant.*



Photograph courtesy of the BIPM

*Before now, protecting  
"Le Grand K" from change  
was crucial to science.*

How do we define a kilogram?

Most people can get by answering, "About 2.2 pounds," or, "Enough sliced turkey for maybe a dozen sandwiches."

But Ed Williams ('64) isn't most people. As a scientist with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), he has strived for years to bring more precision to our measurement of mass.

Before last spring, the scientific community measured a kilogram in relation to a physical artifact: "Le Grand K," a highly protected and sealed piece of platinum-iridium kept in Sèvres, France. This metal cylinder, about the size of a votive candle, was the world's "true" kilogram. If it changed at all—if it so much as looked at a piece of chocolate cake and gained a whisper of mass, or if it somehow hiccupped away mere atoms—then the very definition of a kilogram changed with it.

And as science progressed, our ability to detect even infinitesimal fluctuations grew. "Every 40 years or so when they would bring the (true) kilogram out and recalibrate," Williams said, "they'd find small changes and have to adjust."

Associate Professor of Physics Nathaniel Cunningham described the problems these adjustments raised. "When we can measure an artifact more precisely than we can expect that object to be stable, then it's no longer a constant."

Williams and four of his colleagues—Ian Mills, Peter Mohr, Terry Quinn and Barry

Taylor—didn't like this potential for variability. They coauthored papers arguing for a redefinition of the units of mass that would free science from comparing against a physical object. If Le Grand K was changing, then mass's measure, they contended, should be tied instead to the unchanging rules of nature.

*Metrologia* published their paper, "Redefinition of the kilogram: a decision whose time has come," in 2005. "The aggressive title for this ... paper led to an unexpected backlash and earned us the appellation, 'Gang of Five,'" said the now-infamous Peter Mohr, science gangster.

"I wasn't much in favor of the name," Williams said, "but some of the others liked it, and it stuck."

The gang toned down the title of a second piece in the same journal the following year: "Redefinition of the kilogram, ampere, kelvin, and mole: a proposed approach to implementing CIPM recommendation 1 (CI-2005)." This piece proposed two means of kilogram redefinition: using the Planck or Avogadro constants.

Opting for the Avogadro constant would have made for a simpler summary in a magazine written by and for laypeople. The Avogadro constant would have tied the kilogram to a known number of carbon atoms. However, laypeople's convenience was not NIST's primary concern. And the scientific community gathered in Versailles in November 2018, voting unanimously to redefine the



(l to r) Ian Mills, Terry Quinn, Barry Taylor, Peter Mohr and Edwin Williams ('64) were honored in Versailles France, on November 16, 2018, for their contributions to the kilogram redefinition effort.

kilogram using the Planck constant.

The Planck constant is named after the German physicist Max Planck. He won the 1918 Nobel Prize in physics for his work linking the amount of energy a photon carries with the frequency of its electromagnetic wave. Thanks to quantum physics, our growing understanding of the relationship between mass and energy allows for some nimble—and highly precise—leaps between the two.

Brian Resnick articulated the jump between energy and mass this way for vox.com. “The Planck constant (is) now and forever set as  $6.62607015 \times 10^{-34} \text{m}^2\text{kg/s}$ . And from this fixed value of the Planck constant, scientists can derive the mass of a kilogram.”

Goodbye, potentially variable physical comparison. Hello, mathematically constant rule of the universe. Cunningham applauded the change. “Now it’s an unflinching, unwavering standard.”

That standard is, in Resnick’s view, a powerful step forward in both the accuracy and democratization of science itself. It means we “no longer need a government—the U.S., France, whoever—or an international governing body to tell us what a kilogram is. It (is) a fundamental truth of the universe, available to anyone with the proper equipment to realize it.”

He said, “In that light, the new definition is more democratic—one that’s free to be used throughout all the world and not kept locked up in a case in France.”

With the unanimous decision in Versailles and its official adoption on May 20, 2019, the “Gang of Five” went from a bunch of scientific pot stirrers to an esteemed group of scientists who literally redefined the way we measure our world.

NIST applauded the five for helping to bring science to “a pivotal point for humanity.” They said, “For the first time, all of the world’s measurement units (are now) accurately defined by nature’s fundamental laws.”

What exactly do you do after helping pivot humanity?

Williams’ reaction was (fittingly) measured. “We had a very nice party,” he said. “There was a nice group of scientists from the U.S. and Canada there. It was a pleasant feeling.”

Others in the science community have been less reserved. A handful of NIST scientists and metrology enthusiasts celebrated heartily enough to wake up with tattoos. They marked the newly quantified Planck constant and redefined kilogram by tattooing the equations on their forearms.


“I am not very likely to join them,” Williams admitted. But he agreed the redefinition was, in its way, tattoo-worthy.

“We have changed (the world) in a small sense, but a permanent sense,” he said. “I’m not a betting man, but if I were, I would say that it will be hundreds of years before this new definition sees any significant change.” [N](#)



*We have changed  
(the world) in a  
small sense, but  
a permanent  
sense.*





# Sinking *into* the Climb

To do right by his friend,  
one alumnus from  
Anchorage, Alaska,  
endured plenty of wrong.

—words and photos by Dr. Paul Craig ('74)

*This essay was first delivered as a performance in “Arctic Entries,” an Alaska-based stage series of personal stories from the Arctic. We publish it here with the author’s permission.*

My life is a lot like a roll of toilet paper. The closer I get to the end, the faster everything spins—except for my bicycle. The older I get, the slower it rolls.

When I turned 60, I decided I would bicycle, by myself, from Prudhoe Bay to Anchorage. That trip starts in Deadhorse and follows the Dalton Highway south. The Dalton is 500 miles of mud, muck and mosquitoes. Very little pavement—it’s all gravel. It goes across a lot of tundra, and it ascends up and over the Brooks Range at Atigun Pass—it’s the highest point of any road in Alaska.

My bicycle, gear and food for 500 miles weighed in over 120 pounds. I was also carrying six pieces of very precious cargo: One was a vial of ashes from my best friend, Leroy; he had died a few months before. And the other five were love notes from my girlfriend, Bev. Each of those love notes was in a separate envelope, sealed, with something written on it, like, “Open after particularly difficult day.”

I thought I could bicycle about 70 miles per day on the Dalton. I was wrong.

The first day, I pedaled 60 miles. Then the rain began. The next day, pedaling through the rain, I covered 30 miles. The next morning, I woke up in my tent, and I felt a stinging sensation on my right butt cheek. I couldn’t see what it was. And then I thought of my camera. Those photos were butt ugly.

I discovered a friction blister, bandaged it up, got back on my bike and continued riding south. The rain had picked up even harder. The road turned into a ribbon of mud about two inches thick. Sticky mud. I could barely keep my bicycle up; I could barely keep it moving forward. I only cranked out 18 miles that day.

In my tent that night, I was cold, wet, miserable, depressed. I didn’t think things could get any worse. But they did.

The next morning, it was raining and blowing harder than ever. I was done. Finished. Ready to be extracted. I pulled out my In-reach Device and sent a text message through the satellite to a pilot in Fairbanks. He had agreed to help me get out of there if I had a major breakdown. I was in the middle of a major emotional breakdown.

He texted back: “The weather is too bad to fly.”

I texted him: “When is the weather expected to improve?”

Several minutes later, I got my answer: “The National Weather Service says it will be another 10 to 12 days.”

My spirit sunk to an even deeper and darker place than it had been. And I did what any reasonable person would do in a moment like that. I fell back to sleep.

About two o’clock in the afternoon, I couldn’t sleep anymore. It was still raining very hard. I looked around the tent, and I spotted those five envelopes. I opened them all—at once. I held those messages of love and the ashes of friendship close, and I worked up the

gumption to do what needed to be done. I packed up all of my wet gear, got back on the bicycle, and headed on south, slowly pedaling through the thick mud.

I hadn’t had any human contact for about four days. About 30 minutes into that ride, I heard a voice from nowhere. The voice said, “How are you doing?” And I thought, great—I’ve slipped from depression into psychosis.

It was two guys from Louisiana. They pedaled up next to me. It was their first day on the Dalton—my fourth. The human contact helped improve my mood, and, miraculously, the road shifted from mud to wet gravel. And they took off like a bolt of greased lightning. I kept pedaling slowly to the south.

The next day, I ascended Atigun Pass.

The last two miles of Atigun are a 12% grade—far too steep to pedal with that much gear. I got off my bike—started pushing with one hand, pulling with the other—and I started ascending that pass. I was huffing and puffing and sweating up a storm under my rain gear. And I didn’t think I could make it.

---

*I was also carrying six pieces of very precious cargo: One was a vial of ashes from my best friend, Leroy ... The other five were love notes from my girlfriend, Bev.*

---

*I was done. Finished. Ready to be extracted. (The pilot) texted back: “The weather is too bad to fly.”*



*The voice said, “How are you doing?”  
And I thought, great—I’ve  
slipped from depression  
into psychosis.*

The pass was covered with a raincloud, it was raining hard.

I don’t know if you’ve seen the movie, “True Grit,” but there’s a scene in it where Jeff Bridges runs through the night carrying a 14-year-old girl who’d been snake bitten, trying to get her to a doctor before she died. That scene kept going through my mind. And somehow or another, that scene helped me to get up and over Atigun Pass. Every time I thought I couldn’t take another step, I just dug a little deeper and found my true grit. I made it.

The next day, the weather improved slightly. And I saw a peak in the Brooks Range. And I thought, this is the place, this is the time, to scatter Leroy’s ashes. And I did. And as I threw them into the air, a gust of wind came from below. (No, this isn’t “The Big Lebowski.”) A gust of wind rose from below and carried those ashes toward the peak above—maybe beyond. Leroy was gone. His ashes were gone. But his friendship lives on in my heart today.

You may be wondering: Did I make it? Yes, I made it—at least all the way to Fairbanks. Bev dropped everything and drove up. We took the long way home. From Fairbanks, we drove down to Delta, then to Glennallen. When we got close to Palmer, we decided, let’s spend even more time together. So we drove up Hatcher Pass. We

took the long way home—all the way home—to our current home together. We’re married now.

And the one thing I’ve learned from Bev is: Lighten my load. I roll better that way. 🏔️



*Dr. Paul Craig (74) is a clinical neuropsychologist in Anchorage, Alaska. He received the Alaska Psychological Association’s 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award and the American Psychological Association’s 2015 Excellence in Rural Health Award.*



# Even Athena Grew

## Rethink growing up with NWU's oldest living English alumna.

—By Atira Meyer ('19) and Eric Wendt ('99)

A little girl named Ruth sits with her elders. She learns much by listening...

Her great-aunt Phoebe, especially, can weave a tale. She tells the child stories about a grassland girlhood. Stories about studying at Harvard. And Columbia. And Oxford. And oh so many stories about teaching at Nebraska Wesleyan.

The young girl follows her great-aunt's stories, then follows her path to NWU. She, too, will become a teacher. She'll say goodbye to her great-aunt Phoebe. And the string of her own long life will play out with much of her great-aunt's wisdom and hunger to see the world.

That little girl is now 98. **Ruth Jean Bolton** ('43) lives today in a York, Neb., nursing home, in a room with a big, sunny window and a little table holding on this day a stack of neatly typed pages—her great-aunt's story.

A few Nebraska Wesleyan folks make the drive from Lincoln to see her, and her manuscript. She welcomes them inside.

NWU's oldest living English alumna sits with her youngers. They learn much by listening...

Among those youngers was a 22-year-old Nebraska Wesleyan English major named **Atira Meyer** ('19).

If you imagine the lengths of our lives as pieces of colorful string, the young end of Meyer's now touched softly with the old end of Bolton's. Bolton's string reached back to tie with her great-aunt's. And Professor of English **Phoebe May Hopper's** string? It stretched all the way to the Nebraska prairies of the 1870s.

When Bolton welcomed Meyer into her room and touched her hand in greeting, the



Photo by Scott Stuckey

Atira Meyer ('19) (left) sits with the colorful Ruth Jean Bolton ('43).

young Meyer found herself one warm palm removed from Prof. Hopper, a woman who was there when Nebraska turned 10.

What do we know about Prof. Hopper? We know she taught English at Nebraska Wesleyan University for 37 years beginning in 1901.

Nebraska Wesleyan's late historian, Professor of History **David Mickey** ('39), unearthed differing measurements of Hopper's worth to the school. In 1903 as NWU weathered lean times, Hopper's annual salary stood at \$500—which would have then provided food for a family, and little more. In 1916, Hopper joined five female colleagues (including **Clara Urania Mills**, the legendary “ghost” of NWU) in a protest to trustees over the state of the

women's toilets on campus.

Still, these drawbacks didn't seem to lessen Hopper's commitment to her students. In 1917, as many Nebraska Wesleyan students were bracing to serve in the First World War, they took time to express their gratitude specifically to her. They dedicated the 1917 volume of *The Coyote* this way:

*You little know how day by day  
We're helped along our common way  
By little things you do and say.*

*Unassuming, ever true,  
Quietly your work you do;  
Never tiring till it's thru—  
Our Miss Hopper; here's to you!*



Ruth Jean Bolton (‘43) as she appeared in the 1943 yearbook.

Gently set aside the 102-year-old yearbook and turn to Hopper’s memoir. It documented her experiences with pioneer life in Nebraska in the 1870s. Bolton transcribed the memoir for her some 70 years ago, using a small typewriter in her lap. Great-aunt and niece believed together that “a well-typed manuscript made all the difference.”

Bolton had tried to get the University of Nebraska Press to publish the memoir in 1951 with no luck. Reluctantly, she stored the pages away, and that manuscript sat for decades. She brought it out to show **Scott Stuckey**, an NWU adjunct professor of business ethics. Bolton wanted to share it with him, she explained, because his great-great-grandparents made several appearances in the text.

**Melissa Hayes**, assistant director of Nebraska Wesleyan’s Cooper Center for Academic Resources, and Professor of English **Rick Cypert** were equally intrigued by the text for Hopper’s many brushes with leading Nebraska thinkers, including Willa Cather and Louise Pound.

They arranged a trip to York to visit Bolton. They invited Meyer along to report as part of Professor of Journalism **James Schaffer’s** feature writing course. As much as there was to learn about Phoebe Hopper from the memoir, Meyer found herself just as eager to absorb Bolton’s NWU story.

Bolton arrived on campus in 1938 and set about on her primary goal: “I had fun,” she said. Bolton “dated the only thing there was available to date, which was student ministers.”

She remembered many details, from the

day her parents dropped her off to the classes she took. She wrote down the names of her five roommates that year: **Florence Lowson, Esther (Perkins) Price, Wilma Goering, Geraldine (Walters) Gilbert and Maxine Brooks (‘42)**. The six of them lived at “the Flood household” north of campus

near Adams Street.

“Oh, we had the most fun,” she said and laughed, doing a little dance with her shoulders. “We overdid it!”

The six of them pooled their resources for food and their modest rent to the Floods. “We ate wonderfully the first part of the month,” she said. “But by the end of the month...” her voice trailed into a frown. She described their “nine-cent meals” of old bread, cottage cheese and skim milk—not so different from Meyer’s own ramen-noodle just-get-through-to-payday survival rations.

While many of Bolton’s classmates would go on to marry those student ministers they dated, Bolton did not. She never married and had no children. She took her teaching certificate and taught at a country school south of Stromsburg, Neb.

While she remembered her students there fondly, the demands of the job where one young woman taught each grade and managed the small facility were a lot to swallow. “I didn’t want to build my fires every morning,” she said.

So she went back to NWU, completed her bachelor’s degree in 1943, and took a teaching position at Fontenelle Elementary in Omaha. She learned she liked what happened when she stretched her horizons. And she determined she’d stretch them further.

At Fontenelle, she learned about World War II-era overseas teaching positions offered through the Department of Defense. She boarded her first airplane and set off for Clark Air Base, about an hour northwest of Manila. And over the next quarter century, Bolton would teach schoolchildren at American military bases in the Philippines, England, Japan and the U.S.

Her travels would take her to every U.S. state save Tennessee and Alaska. Then her journey wound nearer to home—to Norfolk, Neb., then Lincoln, now York. At 98, she’s OK leaving Tennessee and Alaska off her list of states seen. She’s OK with her journey

winding down very near the place where she transcribed her great-aunt’s story some 70



Phoebe May Hopper as she appeared in the 1924 yearbook.

years ago.


Bolton still writes poetry in her room in York—she calls them “jingles.” And her work impressed Prof. Cypert, who called Bolton “a model alumna and a wonderful example for current students of a life well lived.” She even made a call-in appearance in Artist in Residence Mary Hickman’s advanced poetry class.

Bolton’s message to those NWU students in 2019 echoed what her great-aunt would have said in the same classroom in 1919. When you look at your work, your poetry, your life, don’t be ashamed if you find you have some growing up to do.

You come to Old Main (Hopper would have called it simply “the Main Building”) for this precious chance to grow. And no matter where the string of your life leads from here—whether you become a teacher in a country school, the commanding general at Clark Air Base, or a titan of American poetry—your growth is bound to look the same.

It will be a process. A stringing together of life experiences. A journey. Much like it was a decade, a century, a millennium ago.

“In this way the lesson was taught that even the highest mental attainments are the result of growth, and that they are not reached at a bound,” Annie Jessen wrote for the *Christian Science Sentinel* in 1905. “It is only by constant growth, a continual rising by the things we put under our feet, that we can ever attain our ... ideal.”

Hopper distilled this growth-loving philosophy to three words in the 1933 volume of *The Coyote*. Beneath a (rather stern) portrait and her credentials from the University of Nebraska, Harvard, Columbia and Oxford came one small, simple epigram: “*Even Athena grew.*” 



## Waist-deep in History

The class of 1895 gifted NWU this hefty chunk of pink granite and placed it northwest of Old Main. And 124 years later, the impact of that gift is still settling in. The same rock that stretched above shoulders in this 1895 photo stands about hip-high today.

# Retiring Right

## Glen Dappen

- › professor emeritus of biology
- › retired since: 2003

It's fitting that the Department of Biology resides on the Glen Dappen level (first floor) of Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science. >



Photo by Lauren Andres (21)

## Janet Lu

- › professor emerita of library science and information technology
- › retired since: 2008

Lu also plays ping pong each week, and is more competitive than you might guess. She laughed. "I like people to wonder: Is she 81 or 18?"



Photo by Aaron Leavy

## Joyce Michaelis

- › professor emerita of Spanish
- › retired since: 2014

The student-faculty ratio on Michaelis's study trips these days is often as low as 1:1.



# Emeriti P-Wolves share lessons on retired life.

## Keep doing what you love—on your terms.

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We won't tell you **Glen Dappen's** age. But his Nebraska Wesleyan teaching career was born in 1966; he began teaching full-time in 1969. That makes his career older than many of his colleagues—peers who are by now thinking hard about retirement, themselves. In fact, Dappen began teaching before Olin Hall of Science was built. He taught his first biology classes in the basement of Old Main.

Dappen officially retired in 2003. He was by then ready to let go of many aspects of faculty life: the committee roles, department

meetings and the like. But the teaching and the research—those things never felt much like work to begin with. Those were things Dappen did because they brought him daily joy. They still do.

He has continued to teach every semester at NWU for roughly 10 years. When the department struggled to fill an anatomy teaching slot, Dappen was happy to step forward. He's also taught histology and parasitology courses since 2014.

He's also researched corn nematodes since 1978 and made use of lab space on

campus. Farmers from various places send him samples from their fields, hoping he can identify the nematodes and offer advice on their control.

To Dappen, the work doesn't get nearly as old as idleness would. "If you stay at home, you don't have your neurons firing the way they used to, and it gets pretty boring," he said.

His advice: "Volunteer. Stay active. And stay involved in your profession."

## Find your niche. Or make one.

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**Janet Lu** and her husband, Paul, moved to Longmont, Colo., years ago to be closer to their daughter and grandchildren. They missed Lincoln's active Asian community. Rather than bemoan what Longmont didn't have, Janet threw herself into what it did.

She was warmly welcomed by an

award-winning Mexican folkloric dance group, Bailes de mi Tierra. Lu has become an excellent folk dancer and learned some Spanish along the way. "Besides promoting cultural diversity, we're also promoting health and wellness among seniors in the community," Lu said.

"Dancing is like returning to your youth—your roots," said Lu's friend, Maria Alejandra, the group's costume designer. "When I'm dancing, my whole body aches with happiness."

## Combine your loves.

---

When you love your job and your free time, retirement can come with mixed feelings. **Joyce Michaelis** knew she'd miss her students' energy. She'd miss traveling with them and showing them new places. At the same time, she was eager to do more with her family.


For her, retirement has been about finding enjoyable ways to fill some of the gaps created when she stepped away from teaching.

For instance: She still leads study trips. Only now, her grandchildren are her students.

"It is a totally wonderful and fulfilling experience having an adventure with each of them in a one-on-one situation," she said. They've gone to Russia, taken African safaris and visited New York and Colorado on Road Scholar trips.

The rhythm of the academic calendar meant Prof. Michaelis would meet new

people every semester. Missing that steady flow of new faces can be one of the challenges of retirement. So Michaelis is never shy about introducing herself on her travels. She also joined a group called "The Bees" for early-morning exercise. Her time buzzing with them is something she finds both physically and socially healthy.

"It's never too late to make new friends," she said. "Friendships give depth and substance to life." 

Brad Howe described his art as “exposing energized moments between connection and disconnection, and between strain and serenity.”



## Abel Commons Adds “Wall of Eyes”

With the new Duane W. Acklie Hall of Science and its gorgeous “front yard,” Abel Commons, Nebraska Wesleyan’s campus has attracted a lot of eyes lately. A newly placed sculpture off Acklie Hall’s main entrance is drawing even more.

“Pared de Ojos” (“Wall of Eyes”) is a work in aluminum by the Brazil-educated American sculptor, Brad Howe. The piece is on extended loan to Nebraska Wesleyan University from the collection of Karen and Robert Duncan. The Duncans loaned the sculpture in honor of Duane and Phyllis Acklie and in recognition of the Duncan family’s longstanding relationship with NWU.

Installed in June, the sculpture fits its surroundings so well that it already feels as if the piece has always been there. Its curves serve to echo the arches, bending walkways and First Church dome that stand near it.

Anne Pagel curates the Karen and Robert Duncan Collection. To her, the sculpture “appears to be glittering wheels that have clattered along, on the verge of toppling over, finally coming to rest so that each holds the others in place.”

Those glittering wheels connect on sturdy aluminum hinges, so that “Wall of Eyes” can be reconfigured to glance in any direction. Its textured surfaces and bends give the sculpture great variability by angle, light and season.

New to campus, the sculpture is actually nearing its 20th birthday. And like the NWU sophomores who were also born in 2000, its future on this campus looks especially bright. [n](#)



# The Year 2525 Revisited

An NWU grad's one hit leaves America wondering for 50 years.

No one sat atop the billboard charts in 1969 longer than Rick Evans (64) and his friend, Denny Zager. Not the Stones (four weeks). Not Marvin Gaye (four weeks). Not Elvis (one week). In fact, it took the Beatles two songs that year—"Get Back" and "Come Together"—simply to tie the six weeks that Zager & Evans's "In the Year 2525" spent on top of the music world.

In 1969, an anxious America had its gaze fixed on the future. Woodstock took off. So did PBS. So did the first Boeing 747. And so did Apollo 11.

Zager was among the millions watching as Apollo 11 launched.

"They showed the rocket taking off," Zager told the *Wall Street Journal* in July, "and we were sitting there saying, 'Boy, that's really exciting.' Guess which song they play (on the news)?" Zager remembered feeling flabbergasted to find that moment matched with their song. "I just sat there and watched, and I thought, 'Oh my Lord.'"

Something about the song's forward-looking nature and its white-knuckled anxiety made "In the Year 2525" the quintessential song in the year 1969.

Evans died in 2018. And Zager, who lives in Lincoln, gave his friend full credit for the lyrics. "He did a lot of things with words and stuff like that. He was very good at that, and I was always more into the harmonies."

Zager discovered Evans playing at a show on the Nebraska Wesleyan campus in the early '60s. "He had a really neat guitar

called a Gretsch." Zager was impressed by both the guitar and its player. So he approached Evans after the show. "And this is where the whole thing began."

Evans's lyrics proved eerily prophetic on technology, science and health. They read in part:

*In the year 5555*

*Your arms hangin' limp at your sides  
Your legs got nothin' to do.  
Some machine's doin' that for you.*

*In the year 6565*

*You won't need no husband, won't need no wife.  
You'll pick your son, pick your daughter, too  
From the bottom of a long glass tube.*

"What was exciting," Zager remembered, "is that (listeners) thought that we had some kind of connection. How did we know test-tube babies? They didn't have test-tube babies then. They were coming to us saying, 'You scared us half to death.'"

If you can't name another popular Zager & Evans song, that's OK. There really isn't one. Zager himself called the song "a freak of nature" and a "one-hit wonder" written by a Nebraska Wesleyan kid from Imperial, Neb. Just don't dismiss it. After all, how many one-hit wonders are still the topic of conversation half a century after they hit? [n](#)



## Wonderous Company

Even "one-hit wonder" status puts Zager & Evans in select company. Here are other artists with one Top 40 single ([listverse.com](http://listverse.com)).

- Jimi Hendrix, "All along the Watchtower" (No. 20, 1968)
- Grateful Dead, "Touch of Grey" (No. 9, 1987)
- Lou Reed, "Walk on the Wild Side" (No. 16, 1972)
- Frank Zappa, "Valley Girl" (No. 32, 1982)
- Queen Latifah, "U.N.I.T.Y." (No. 23, 1994)
- Sinead O'Connor, "Nothing Compares 2 U" (No. 1, 1990)

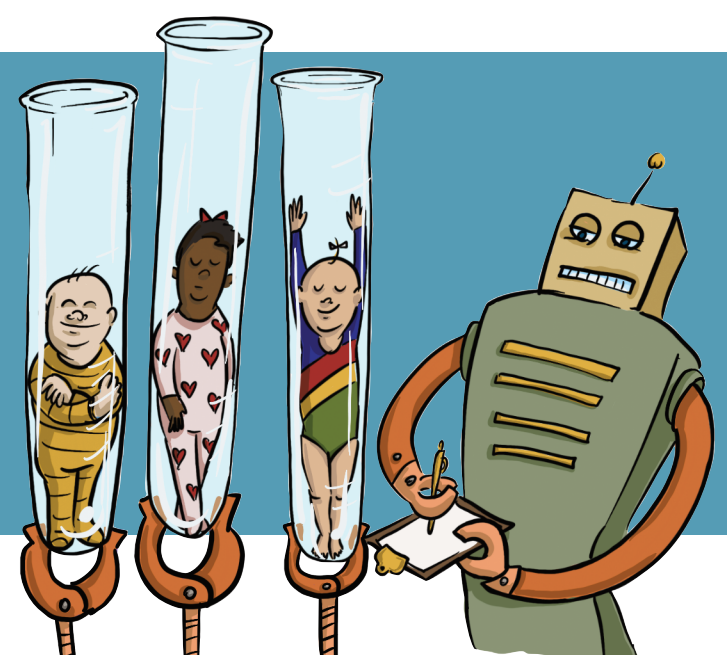


Illustration by Melanie Reimiller

All six Kellers wore the black and gold for Quinn's high school graduation in May. Together, (left to right) Kevin, Scott, Braly, Quinn, Crew and Brian account for 197 NWU wins and counting.



Photo by Allison Woods ('20)

## Family Ties • Family Wins

### A sixth Keller joins the NWU football family.

Last year, the “bumper” on the face of NWU football helmets read one word: FAMILY.

That word echoed the commitment, selflessness and effort that make a good football team. And for six members of the Keller family, the brotherhood running through NWU football is literal.

When Quinn Keller ('23) suited up for his first fall camp in August, he became the sixth member of the family to join NWU football.

The first was his uncle, Kevin Keller ('77), a center.

Then came his dad, Brian Keller ('83), a linebacker, defensive end and NWU's head coach since 1996.

A generation later, there was his cousin, Kevin's son, Scott Keller ('06), who played linebacker.

Then Quinn's older brothers arrived: wide receivers Crew ('18) and Braly ('20) Keller.

When you're dealing with a 123-year-old program, it's difficult to be certain about these things. But Brian Keller called it “probably the most football players from one family to play for the Plainsmen and Prairie Wolves.”

“The strong bonds between teammates and coaches are a big part of what makes NWU football so special,” said NWU Athletic Director Ira Zeff. “It is like family in that locker room. And the Kellers have made that family stronger.”

Zeff pointed to the 15 seniors last year who earned National Football Foundation Honor Society membership—the third highest total in America. “That doesn't happen unless you have a level of support and accountability that runs on the magnitude of a strong family.” [N](#)

*It is like family in that locker room. And the Kellers have made that family stronger.*



# Student Pride

Prestige scholars and awards

## Seven for Seventh

NWU produces seven spring Academic All-Americans.

NWU has long been a national leader when it comes to producing Academic All-Americans. And with seven more honorees named this summer, the Prairie Wolves moved into the passing lane on the national charts.

Nebraska Wesleyan's student-athletes have now won 181 Academic All-America Awards, which passed Augustana College (Ill.) to rank seventh in the U.S., regardless of NCAA division.

**Anna Frazier** ('19) (1.) is an Academic All-American with four NCAA III national championships and six All-America Awards in women's track & field. She graduated in May with a degree in exercise science.

**Elizabeth Jones** ('19) (2.) was named the NCAA III CoSIDA Academic All-American of the Year for women's track & field. She and **Erin Powell** ('06) are the only NWU track & field athletes to receive this rare distinction. She is a three-time Academic All-American, a 12-time All-American and a seven-time NCAA III national champion. She graduated in May with a degree in exercise science.

**Kaylee Jones** ('19) (3.) is also a three-time Academic All-American and a seven-time NCAA III national champion in women's track & field. The 11-time All-American graduated in May with a degree in exercise science.

**Trent Koehler** ('20) (4.) earned Academic All-America honors in men's track & field. The biology major also earned All-American status in the indoor and outdoor long jump this year, finishing fifth and seventh, respectively.

**Carter Lyons** ('19) (5.) has repeated as an Academic All-American in men's swimming. The Liberal Arts Conference Championships MVP led NWU to its first team title in 2019. The mathematics and physics major graduated in May.

**Dan Novinski** ('19) (6.) is an Academic All-American with three school records in men's swimming. He was part of the Liberal Arts Conference Championship-winning 800 free relay team and took second in the 200 free. He graduated in May with a degree in biology and is now a medical student at UNMC.

**Andy Vasquez** ('20) (7.) is a three-sport student-athlete in men's cross country, swimming and track & field. He took Academic All-America status in men's cross country. He is an accounting major.



Photos by Anderson Studio

Photos by Next Level Portrait



Chance Kennicutt ('20)

## Boren Scholar Heads to the Baltic

Chance Kennicutt ('20) wants to pursue a career in national security. That's why he studied political science at Nebraska Wesleyan and participated in the Capitol Hill Internship Program. It's also why he eyed the U.S. State Department's Boren Scholarship.

The Boren provides American undergraduate and graduate students with resources and encouragement to acquire language skills and experiences in countries critical to U.S. security and stability. Russian is among the languages the scholarship program has identified for support.

Kennicutt secured a Boren Scholarship in May. He'll spend seven months in Riga, Latvia, at the Baltic Center where he'll take extensive study in Russian. Then it's off to London for graduate study. Kennicutt has been accepted to the London School of Economics master's program in public policy and administration—one of the world's most competitive master's programs in political science.

## Lessons in Healing

Two NWU students spent their summer studying in Rwanda thanks to the competitive Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. The scholarship is sponsored by the U.S. State Department with the aim of diversifying the students and destinations involved in international study.

Kerry Worley ('20) is a social work major from Omaha. And Rachel Konvalin ('22) is a global studies and modern language studies major from Boise, Idaho.

To prepare for their trip, they took Professor of English Gerise Herndon's month-long course, "Rwanda: Genocide and Beyond." Worley partnered with Herndon on a student-faculty collaborative research project examining how Rwandan women view feminism.

For Konvalin, the trip was about gaining "more in-depth knowledge about the genocide and how Rwandan communities have come back from such a dark history."

Worley and Konvalin are NWU's 50th and 51st Gilman scholars.



Kerry Worley ('20)



Rachel Konvalin ('22)

Photos by Lauren Andres ('21)



Emma Peterson ('21)



Hunter Smith ('21)

Photos by Ceara Curtis ('22)

## Pair Heads to UK to Study Education and Immigration

How should a state treat children—children at its borders and in its classrooms? A pair of NWU students earned competitive spots in the Fulbright Summer Institute to explore those questions in the United Kingdom.

Emma Peterson ('21) is an athletic training and Spanish major from Elkhorn, Neb. She traveled to the University of Bristol. "My key interest was to understand how Bristol welcomes refugees, and compare the U.S. and the U.K."

Hunter Smith ('21) is a history major from Broken Bow, Neb. He traveled to Queen's University Belfast in Northern Ireland. There, he investigated educational philosophies in the U.K., meeting with lawmakers from the British Parliament to discuss the national public education system.

"I will incorporate what I learned in Northern Ireland in my own classroom some day," Smith said. "I want to become a well-rounded educator who can build lessons that are individualized for each of my students so they can find success in my classes."



Photos by Next Level Portrait

## NWU Basketball Grabs National Academic Honors

Ten Nebraska Wesleyan University men's basketball players were named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Honors Court in July. No school in the nation produced more.

The Honors Court recognizes juniors and seniors with GPAs at or above 3.2 who are coached by NABC members in any NCAA or NAIA division. NWU is Nebraska's only NCAA III affiliate. Nebraska Wesleyan's honorees include:

- (1.) Nate Bahe ('20),
- (2.) Ty Bardsley ('19),
- (3.) Cooper Cook ('19),
- (4.) Cordell Gillingham ('20),
- (5.) Austin Hall ('20),
- (6.) Jack Hiller ('20),
- (7.) Ryan Kannegieter ('20),
- (8.) Jake Scheef ('19),
- (9.) Nate Schimonitz ('20) and
- (10.) Connor Thompson ('20).

They are coached by 2018 NABC Coach of the Year Dale Wellman.

NWU also made a return trip to the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's (WBCA) Top 25 Academic Team Honor Roll. NWU women's basketball posted the eighth-highest team GPA in NCAA III. NWU has cracked the top 15 in three of the past five seasons, and led all schools in 2015. The team is coached by Sam Dixon.



2018-2019 Women's basketball team

Photo by Next Level Portrait



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**Contact:** Brenda McCrady, director of planned giving,  
at 402.465.2129 or [bmccrady@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:bmccrady@nebrwesleyan.edu).





# ALUMNI PAGES



You're a part of the Nebraska Wesleyan community—no dues required.

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## Shelley McHugh ('91)

Director of alumni relations  
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402.465.2123

Update your contact information, professional details and more in our alumni directory at [alumni.nebrwesleyan.edu](http://alumni.nebrwesleyan.edu).

## MYSTERY PHOTO

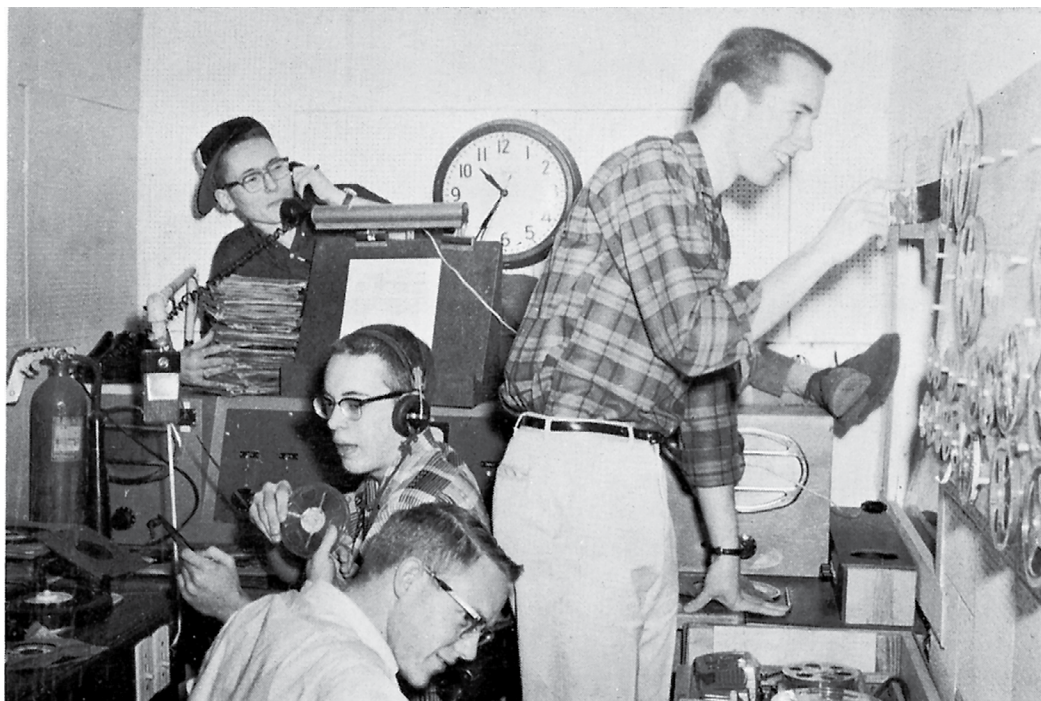
### An Uplifting Experience

Who's riding this wave of enthusiasm? And can you recognize anyone in this sea?

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Nebraska Wesleyan University  
5000 Saint Paul Avenue  
Lincoln, NE 68504-2794  
ewendt@nebrwesleyan.edu

## MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED



### Longtime listener, first-time caller

Thanks for calling into the station to name those DJs.

That's my brother, **Chuck Haydon** ('64), with the headphones on. In the back of the picture is his best friend, **Ken Kokjer** ('63). To the right is **Steve Borstad** ('63). I don't know the fourth guy.

Talk about "out of control." I remember one very nice fall afternoon in 1960. One of the station DJs locked himself inside of the live studio for two hours. Time after time, he announced a current hit record that he was going to play next. He never played one of them. The only song that he played over and over was "The Muleskinner Blues" by The Fendermen. His stunt created quite a stir on campus.

I listened to KPRA (and even phoned in song requests) many times, as we lived only one block from the campus and could receive the station quite well.

—**Evan Haydon** ('65)

I'm in there with **Chuck Haydon**, and I think **Steve Borstad**. I'm not sure about the other guy. I spent lots of time in that studio upstairs in the old theatre. I also oversaw the change from KNWU to KPRA for Plainsmen Radio. It was much easier to say repeatedly. Is this my 15 minutes of fame?

—**Ken Kokjer** ('63)

I knew three of the four men in the picture.

The one laying down in the back by the clock was **Ken Kokjer**. He was an interesting guy to be around. After he left Wesleyan, I believe he became active in a radio station in Fairbanks, Alaska, and became associated with the University of Alaska in Fairbanks.

The one with the headphones was **Marv McDougle** ('65).

The one standing was **Steve Borstad**.

I am not sure about the guy sitting in the foreground. He looks a bit like **Chuck Haydon** and if so, he was one of my fraternity brothers (TKE). If this is Chuck, he became employed with IBM and was with IBM at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota for a while.

As I remember, they ran the Wesleyan radio station, I believe its call letters were KNWU and was only on-air for a few hours some evenings. You stated that the call letters were KPRA, and maybe it was called that later on.

—**Dan Brown** ('63)

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# Calendar

Mark your calendar for these events. All are welcome.  
Contact Shelley McHugh (91) for details at smchugh@nebrwesleyan.edu or 402.465.2123.

## October 4

### Inauguration of President Darrin Good

The Nebraska Wesleyan community comes together at O'Donnell Auditorium to put its full support behind the university's 17th president. The ceremony begins at 10:30 a.m.



Photo by Allison Woods '20

## OCTOBER

26

### NWU women's soccer

The Prairie Wolves take on defending conference champion Loras at Abel Stadium at 11 a.m.

29

### NWU men's basketball

The men's season begins on the road with a Division I exhibition matchup with the College of Charleston.



31

### NWU theatre presents: The Wolves

You've never seen inside a pack like this. Warm up with the fierce girls on this raw-talking soccer team. The show opens Halloween night and runs through November 10.

## NOVEMBER

6

### NWU comes to D.C.

Meet NWU's new president and visit with alumni and friends at the National Press Club from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.



Photo by Double 6 Photography

15

### NWU women's basketball

The season opens at home in prime time with a 7 p.m. game against Grinnell College.

## DECEMBER

5

### Lincoln holiday open house

Alumni and friends celebrate the holidays at the Country Club of Lincoln.

17

### Omaha holiday open house

Omaha-area alumni and friends gather for the holidays at Lauritzen Gardens.



16-19

### Final exams

Roughly 2,100 P-Wolves are buckling down to be at their best this week. Send them your best.

28

### NWU men's basketball

An exhibition matchup against an NCAA Division 1 opponent in late December? Yes, please! The Prairie Wolves take on the University of Wyoming Cowboys in Laramie.





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